



# PUBLIC NOTICE

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## WIRELINE COMPETITION BUREAU ANNOUNCES REVISED REPORTING DEADLINES FOR BRINGING PUERTO RICO TOGETHER FUND AND CONNECT USVI FUND STAGE 2 MOBILE SUPPORT RECIPIENTS

WC Docket No. 18-43

WC Docket No. 10-90

In this Public Notice, the Wireline Competition Bureau (Bureau), *sua sponte*, waives the annual reporting deadlines of Section 54.1514 of the Commission's rules and establishes uniform reporting deadlines for the Bringing Puerto Rico Together Fund and the Connect USVI Fund Stage 2 mobile support recipients. All carriers must file all previously required reports by **November 16, 2022** as explained below.<sup>1</sup>

In 2019, the Commission adopted the *PR-USVI Stage 2 Order*, which made available \$258.8 million in Stage 2 high-cost support over a three-year period to mobile providers in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands (Territories) to restore, harden, and expand 4G LTE and 5G technology for voice and broadband service in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria.<sup>2</sup> In 2020, the Bureau authorized mobile support for several providers in the Territories.<sup>3</sup> The Bureau directed the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) to disburse the allocated funds and reminded all support recipients of their obligations, including the ongoing oversight, reporting and certification requirements established by the Commission.<sup>4</sup> However, for administrative reasons, the Commission's rules for the *PR-USVI Stage 2 Order* did not become effective until February 22, 2022, after initiation of the reporting cycle.<sup>5</sup> Moreover, the reporting deadlines varied by carrier depending upon when the carrier first received support.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 47 CFR § 54.1514 (Stage 2 mobile additional annual filing).

<sup>2</sup> *The Uniendo a Puerto Rico Fund and the Connect USVI Fund*, Order, 34 FCC Rcd 9109, 9163, para. 102 (2019) (*PR-USVI Stage 2 Order*).

<sup>3</sup> *Wireline Competition Bureau Authorizes Stage 2 Mobile Support for Viya in the U.S. Virgin Islands*, 35 FCC Rcd 11555 (WCB Oct. 2020); *Wireline Competition Bureau Authorizes Stage 2 Mobile Support for Certain Providers Participating in the Uniendo a Puerto Rico Fund and the Connect USVI Fund*, Public Notice, 35 FCC Rcd 6321 (WCB June 2020) (*2020 June Authorization*) (authorizing AT&T, PRTC, and T-Mobile in Puerto Rico and AT&T in USVI); *Wireline Competition Bureau Authorizes Stage 2 Mobile Support for T-Mobile in Puerto Rico*, Public Notice, 35 FCC Rcd 10303 (WCB Sept. 2020) (collectively *the Authorizations*).

<sup>4</sup> *Supra* note 3; see also *PR-USVI Stage 2 Order*, 34 FCC Rcd at 9172-75, paras. 126-32.

<sup>5</sup> See *Connect America Fund*, Effective Date Notice, WC Docket Nos. 10-90, 87 Fed. Reg. 9453 (Feb. 22, 2022) (*Effective Date Notice*).

Generally, the Commission's rules may be waived for good cause shown.<sup>7</sup> Waiver of the Commission's rules is appropriate only if both: (1) special circumstances warrant a deviation from the general rule, and (2) such deviation will serve the public interest.<sup>8</sup> We find good cause exists to establish uniform deadlines for all recipients of PR-USVI Stage 2 Mobile support to simplify compliance with these obligations and requirements. Establishing uniform deadlines will also decrease the burden of program administration. For these reasons, we find an extension and revision of the deadlines is in the public interest. Accordingly, on our own motion, the Bureau waives the reporting deadlines for Section 54.1514(b), (c), (d), and (e), and we establish the revised uniform reporting deadlines as provided below. Therefore, all Stage 2 Mobile support recipients will have until **November 16, 2022** to file all previously required reports.<sup>9</sup> Additionally, **all** carriers will now have the same two reporting deadlines going forward as shown in Appendix A, Table 1.<sup>10</sup>

Pursuant to Commission rules, filings shall be submitted to the Office of the Secretary of the Commission, the Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS), and clearly labeled.<sup>11</sup> While carriers may combine 2021 and 2022 reports into a single filing, carriers should clearly identify the information for each year. Going forward, we remind carriers that recipients of Stage 2 mobile support have a continuing obligation to maintain the accuracy and completeness of the information provided in their reports.<sup>12</sup> Further, in order for a recipient of Stage 2 mobile support to continue to receive support for the following calendar year, it must submit the reports by the deadlines announced herein.<sup>13</sup>

For additional information, contact Rebekah Douglas, [rebekah.douglas@fcc.gov](mailto:rebekah.douglas@fcc.gov), of the Wireline Competition Bureau, Telecommunications Access Policy Division, (202) 418-7931.

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<sup>6</sup> See 47 CFR § 54.1514(d),(e). For example, for carriers authorized in the *2020 June Authorization*, the effective date notice was released after the first deadline dates associated with section 54.1514(e), which was July 15, 2021. For T-Mobile the first 54.1514(e) deadline was Oct. 15, 2021 and for Viya it was Nov. 16, 2021.

<sup>7</sup> 47 CFR § 1.3.

<sup>8</sup> See *Northeast Cellular Tel. Co. v. FCC*, 897 F.2d 1164, 1166 (D.C. Cir. 1990) (citing *WAIT Radio v. FCC*, 418 F.2d 1153, 1157-59 (D.C. Cir. 1969), *cert. denied*, 93 S.Ct. 461 (1972)) (*Northeast Cellular*).

<sup>9</sup> See *id.*

<sup>10</sup> See also 47 C.F.R. § 54.1514 (a)-(e).

<sup>11</sup> See 47 C.F.R. § 54.1514(f); see also *Effective Date Notice* at 9454. Except for reports filed pursuant to section 54.1514(a) as explained below. See *infra* note 15.

<sup>12</sup> See 47 C.F.R. § 54.1514(g).

<sup>13</sup> See 47 C.F.R. § 54.1514(h).

## APPENDIX A

Table 1. Stage 2 Mobile Support Reporting Deadlines

Mobile Support Recipient	Section 54.1514(a) <sup>14</sup> Mobile Network Coverage Restoration Report and Certification <sup>15</sup>	Section 54.1514(b) Network Performance Report and Certification	Section 54.1514(c) Public Interest Obligations Certification	Section 54.1514(d) <sup>16</sup> Annual Hardening Activities Map and Description	Section 54.1514(e) 5G Deployment and Cost Report and Certification
<b>PRTC</b>	1/30/2023 1/30/2024	11/16/2023	11/16/2023	11/16/2022 1/30/2023 1/30/2024	11/16/2022 <sup>17</sup> 11/16/2023
<b>Liberty<sup>18</sup></b>	1/30/2023 1/30/2024	11/16/2023	11/16/2023	11/16/2022 1/30/2023 1/30/2024	11/16/2022 <sup>19</sup> 11/16/2023
<b>T-Mobile</b>	1/30/2023 1/30/2024	11/16/2023	11/16/2023	11/16/2022 1/30/2023 1/30/2024	11/16/2022 <sup>20</sup> 11/16/2023
<b>Viya<sup>21</sup></b>	1/30/2023 1/30/2024	11/16/2023	11/16/2023	11/16/2022 1/30/2023 1/30/2024	11/16/2022 <sup>22</sup> 11/16/2023

<sup>14</sup> These reporting deadlines are unchanged and remain the same for all support recipients.

<sup>15</sup> See also 47 CFR 54.1513 (requiring restoration of mobile network coverage to equal or greater than 66 percent of pre-hurricane coverage by the end of year two and 100 percent by the end of year three of the Stage 2 mobile support term). The Bureau will provide further information about how to file this report prior to the first deadline. See *Effective Date Notice* at 9454.

<sup>16</sup> For all support recipients this filing should contain the information that would have been included in both the Jan. 30, 2021 and Jan. 30, 2022 required reports.

<sup>17</sup> This filing should contain the information that would have been included in the July 15, 2021 and July 15, 2022 required reports.

<sup>18</sup> AT&T is now Liberty. See *Applications of Liberty Latin America Ltd. And AT&T Inc.*, Memorandum Opinion and Order and Declaratory Ruling, WT Docket No. 19-384, 36 FCC Rcd 2328 (WTB 2020).

<sup>19</sup> This filing should contain the information that would have been included in the July 15, 2021 and July 15, 2022 required reports.

<sup>20</sup> This filing should contain the information that would have been included in the Oct. 15, 2021 and Oct. 15, 2022 required reports.

<sup>21</sup> The authorization for mobile support was specifically for Choice Communications, LLC and Vitelcom Cellular, Inc.

<sup>22</sup> This filing should contain the information that would have been included in the Nov. 16, 2021 and Nov. 16, 2022 required reports.